

What is claimed is:

1. An acidic composition having an acidic pH value and an acid normality value, the acidic composition comprising:
5 a monovalent or polyvalent cation;
 an organic acid; and
 an anion of a strong oxyacid,
 wherein the acidic composition is less
corrosive to a ferrous metal than is a solution of a
10 mineral acid having the same acidic pH value as that of
the acidic composition, and
 wherein the acid composition is more biocidal
than a mixture of the organic acid and a metal salt of
the organic acid which mixture having the same acid
15 normality value as that of the acidic composition.

2. The acidic composition of claim 1, wherein
the monovalent cation comprises an ion of Group IA
element.

3. The acidic composition of claim 1, wherein
20 the polyvalent cation comprises an ion of a Group IIA
element, but not beryllium.

4. The acidic composition of claim 1, wherein
the polyvalent cation comprises an ion of a Group IIIA
element, but not boron.

25 5. The acidic composition of claim 1, wherein
the polyvalent cation comprises a metal of the first
transition series. → *covers Zn*

6. The acidic composition of claim 1, wherein

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the polyvalent cation comprises an ion of magnesium, calcium, ferrous, copper, or zinc.

7. The acidic composition of claim 1, wherein
the polyvalent cation comprises an ion of lead,
5 bismuth, or tin.

8. The acidic composition of claim 1, wherein
the organic acid comprises a carboxylic acid or an
acidic vitamin.

9. The acidic composition of claim 8, wherein
10 the acidic vitamin comprises vitamin C.

10. The acidic composition of claim 1, wherein
the organic acid comprises a monocarboxylic acid, a
dicarboxylic acid, or a tricarboxylic acid.

11. The acidic composition of claim 1, wherein
15 the organic acid comprises acetic acid, lactic acid,
formic acid, or propionic acid.

12. The acidic composition of claim 1, wherein
the organic acid comprises an amino acid.

13. The acidic composition of claim 12, wherein
20 the organic acid comprises glycine, valine, leucine,
phenylalanine, lysine, serine, asparagine, glutamic
acid, alanine, arginine, aspartic acid, cysteine,
histidine, hydroxylysine, hydroxyproline, isoleucine,
methionine, proline, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine,
25 amino adipic acid, diaminobutyric, ornithine, pepicolic
acid, sarcosine or triiodothyronine.

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14. An acidic composition prepared by mixing ingredients comprising:
5 at least one regenerating acid having a first number of equivalents;
 at least one metal base having a second number of equivalents; and
 at least one organic acid,
10 wherein the first number of equivalents of the regenerating acid is greater than that of the second number of equivalents of the metal base.

15. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein the regenerating acid comprises a strong oxyacid of sulfur, phosphorus, nitrogen, chromium, or iodine.

15 16. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein the regenerating acid comprises a strong oxyacid of molybdenum, tungsten, or selenium.

20 17. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein the regenerating acid comprises sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, or an acidic solution of sparingly-soluble Group IIA complexes.

25 18. The acidic composition of claim 17, wherein the acidic sparingly-soluble Group IIA complex is prepared by mixing ingredients comprising a mineral acid and a Group IIA hydroxide, or a Group IIA salt of a dibasic acid, or a mixture thereof.

19. The acidic composition of claim 18, wherein the Group IIA hydroxide comprises calcium hydroxide,

the mineral acid comprises sulfuric acid, and the Group IIA salt of the dibasic acid comprises calcium sulfate.

20. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein
the metal base comprises a hydroxide, a carbonate, a
5 bicarbonate, or an oxide of a metal.

21. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein
the metal base comprises a base of a Group IA element.

22. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein
the metal base comprises a base of a Group IIA
10 element, but not beryllium.

23. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein
the metal base comprises a base of a Group IIIA
element, but not boron.

24. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein
15 the metal base comprises a base of a metal of the first
transition series.

25. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein
the metal base comprises a base of magnesium, calcium,
ferrous, copper, or zinc.

20 26. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein
the metal base comprises a base of lead, bismuth, or
tin.

25 27. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein
the organic acid comprises a carboxylic acid or an
acidic vitamin.

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28. The acidic composition of claim 27, wherein the acidic vitamin comprises vitamin C.

29. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein
the organic acid comprises a monocarboxylic acid, a
5 dicarboxylic acid, or a tricarboxylic acid.

30. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein the organic acid comprises acetic acid, lactic acid, formic acid, or propionic acid.

31. The acidic composition of claim 14, wherein
10 the organic acid comprises an amino acid having an
amino group, and wherein the number of equivalents of
the regenerating acid is greater than the total number
of equivalents of the metal base and the amino group of
the amino acid.

15 32. The acidic composition of claim 31, wherein
the organic acid comprises glycine, valine, leucine,
phenylalanine, lysine, serine, asparagine, glutamic
acid, alanine, arginine, aspartic acid, cysteine,
histidine, hydroxylysine, hydroxyproline, isoleucine,
20 methionine, proline, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine,
amino adipic acid, diaminobutyric, ornithine, pepicolic
acid, sarcosine or triiodothyronine.

33. An acidic composition prepared by mixing
25 ingredients comprising:

at least one regenerating acid having a first number of equivalents; and

at least one metal salt of an organic acid having a second number of equivalents,

wherein the first number of equivalents of the regenerating acid is greater than the second number of equivalents of the metal salt of the organic acid.

34. The acidic composition of claim 33, wherein
5 the regenerating acid comprises a strong oxyacid of sulfur, phosphorus, nitrogen, chromium, or iodine.

35. The acidic composition of claim 33, wherein the regenerating acid comprises a strong oxyacid of molybdenum, tungsten, or selenium.

10 36. The acidic composition of claim 33, wherein the regenerating acid comprises sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, or an acidic solution of sparingly-soluble Group IIA complexes.

15 37. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the acidic sparingly-soluble Group IIA complex is prepared by mixing ingredients comprising a mineral acid and a Group IIA hydroxide, or a Group IIA salt of a dibasic acid, or a mixture thereof.

20 38. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the Group IIA hydroxide comprises calcium hydroxide, the mineral acid comprises sulfuric acid, and the Group IIA salt of the dibasic acid comprises calcium sulfate.

25 39. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the metal salt of the organic acid comprises a salt of a Group IA element.

40. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein

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the metal salt of the organic acid comprises a salt of a Group IIA element, but not beryllium.

41. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the metal salt of the organic acid comprises a salt of 5 a Group IIIA element, but not boron.

42. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the metal salt of the organic acid comprises a salt of a metal of the first transition series.

10 43. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the metal salt of the organic acid comprises a salt of magnesium, calcium, ferrous, copper, or zinc.

15 44. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the metal salt of the organic acid comprises a salt of lead, bismuth, or tin.

45. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the organic acid comprises a carboxylic acid or an acidic vitamin.

20 46. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the acidic vitamin comprises vitamin C.

47. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the organic acid comprises a monocarboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, or a tricarboxylic acid.

25 48. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein the organic acid comprises acetic acid, lactic acid, formic acid, or propionic acid.

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49. The acidic composition of claim 36, wherein
the organic acid comprises an amino acid having an
amino group, wherein the total number of equivalents of
the regenerating acid is greater than the total number
5 of equivalents of the metal salt of the organic acid
and the total number of equivalents of amino groups
from the amino acid.

50. The acidic composition of claim 49, wherein
the organic acid comprises glycine, valine, leucine,
10 phenylalanine, lysine, serine, asparagine, glutamic
acid, alanine, arginine, aspartic acid, cysteine,
histidine, hydroxylysine, hydroxyproline, isoleucine,
methionine, proline, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine,
15 amino adipic acid, diaminobutyric, ornithine, pepicolic
acid, sarcosine or triiodothyronine.

51. An acidic composition prepared by mixing
ingredients comprising:
at least one regenerating acid, wherein the
regenerating acid comprises sulfuric acid, phosphoric
20 acid or an acidic solution of sparingly-soluble Group
IIA complexes, and wherein the regenerating acid has a
first number of equivalents;

at least one polyvalent base, wherein the
polyvalent base is calcium hydroxide, calcium
25 carbonate, or magnesium hydroxide, and wherein the
polyvalent base has a second number of equivalents; and

at least one organic acid, wherein the
organic acid is acetic acid, lactic acid, formic acid
or propionic acid, and

30 wherein the first number of equivalents of
the regenerating acid is greater than the second number

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of equivalents of the polyvalent base.

52. The acidic composition of claim 51, wherein
the acidic sparingly-soluble Group IIA complex is
prepared by mixing ingredients comprising a mineral
acid and a Group IIA hydroxide, or a Group IIA salt of
a dibasic acid, or a mixture thereof.

53. The acidic composition of claim 52, wherein
the Group IIA hydroxide comprises calcium hydroxide,
the mineral acid comprises sulfuric acid, and the Group
10 IIA salt of the dibasic acid comprises calcium sulfate.

54. An acidic composition prepared by mixing
ingredients comprising:

15 at least one regenerating acid, wherein the
regenerating acid comprises sulfuric acid, phosphoric
acid or an acidic solution of sparingly-soluble Group
IIA complexes, and wherein the regenerating acid has a
first number of equivalents;

20 at least one salt of an organic acid, wherein
the salt is a calcium or magnesium salt of acetic acid,
lactic acid, formic acid or propionic acid, and
wherein the salt of the organic acid has a second
number of equivalents, and

25 wherein the first number of equivalents of
the regenerating acid is greater than the second number
of equivalents of the salt or the organic acid.

55. The acidic composition of claim 54, wherein
the acidic sparingly-soluble Group IIA complex is
prepared by mixing ingredients comprising a mineral
30 acid and a Group IIA hydroxide, or a Group IIA salt of

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a dibasic acid, or a mixture thereof.

56. The acidic composition of claim 55, wherein
the Group IIA hydroxide comprises calcium hydroxide,
the mineral acid comprises sulfuric acid, and the Group
5 IIA salt of the dibasic acid comprises calcium sulfate.

57. A method of preparing an acidic composition,
comprising:

10 dissolving or suspending an organic acid in
water to give a solution or suspension of the organic
acid;

adding a metal base to this solution or
suspension of the organic acid to give a mixture;

15 adding to the mixture an amount of
regenerating acid sufficient to ensure complete
regeneration of the organic acid from its metal salt;
and

removing the undissolved solid to give the
acidic composition.

20 58. A method of preparing an acidic composition,
comprising:

dissolving or suspending a monovalent,
divalent or trivalent metal salt of an organic acid to
give a solution or suspension of the salt of the
25 organic acid;

adding to the solution or suspension of the
salt of the organic acid an amount of regenerating acid
sufficient to ensure complete regeneration of the
organic from its metal salt; and

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removing the undissolved solid to give the acidic composition.

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